

December 14, 2020 Third Sunday of Advent

St. Joseph Parish

1709 Wyatt Avenue

Stevens Point, WI 54481

St. Stephen Parish

1401 Clark Street

Stevens Point, WI 54481

715-344-3319

Reserve a spot for Mass at
PointCatholicFaith.org/Mass

www.PointCatholicFaith.org

Advent Penance Times

Fridays, 3-6 p.m. at St. Stephen

Saturdays, following the 6 p.m. Mass at St. Stephen

Sunday, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph

Be sure to reserve your tickets for Christmas Masses

- Online at www.pointcatholicfaith.org/mass
- Call the office at 715-341-1617 ext. 101. If you get voicemail, let us know your name, Mass you wish to attend, number of tickets, and mailing address.

If you register before December 14 your tickets will be mailed to you. Any registrations received after that date, will need to be picked up at the office in-person.

Due to social distancing guidelines our capacity is limited. Please register early to ensure you get a ticket.



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REV. JEFFREY W. HENNES
1401 CLARK STREET
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

Hello everybody,

Last week we encountered our Bishop's Advent reflection, this week I invite you to ponder the following words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis:

On this third Sunday of Advent, called the "Sunday of Joy,: the liturgy invites us to grasp the spirit with which all of this takes place, that is – joy. Saint Paul invites us to prepare for the coming of the Lord by assuming three attitudes: constant joy, persevering prayer, and continual thanksgiving.

The first attitude is constant joy: "Always be happy," St. Paul exhorts us. That is to say always remain in joy, even when things do not go according to our desires. Anxieties, difficulties and sufferings permeate our lives, and so many times the reality around us seems to be inhospitable and arid, like the desert in which the voice of John the Baptist resounded, as the Gospel of today recalls. But the words of the Baptist reveal that our joy rests on the certainty that this desert is inhabited: "Among you there is one whom you do not know." This is Jesus, the envoy of the Father who comes, as Isaiah underlines, "to bring the good news to the poor, to bind the wounds of broken hearts, to proclaim the freedom of slaves, the release of prisoners, to promulgate the year of grace of the Lord." These words, which Jesus will make his own in the discourse of the synagogue of Nazareth, clarify that His mission in the world consists in the liberation from the personal and social sin and slavery that it produces. He came to earth to give back to men the dignity and freedom of the children of God, which only He can communicate.

The joy that characterizes the expectation of the Messiah is based on persevering prayer: this is the second attitude. Pray unceasingly, says St. Paul. Through prayer we can enter into a stable relationship with God, who is the source of true joy. The joy of the Christian comes from faith and from the encounter with Jesus Christ, the reason for our happiness. The more we are rooted in Christ, the more we find inner serenity, even in the midst of everyday contradictions. That is why the Christian, having met Jesus, cannot be a prophet of misfortune, but a witness and a herald of joy. A joy to share with others; a contagious joy that makes life's journey less tiring.

The third attitude indicated by Paul is the continuous yield of graces, that is, the grateful love of God. He is indeed very generous with us, and we are invited to always recognize His gifts, His merciful love, His patience, and goodness, thus living in an endless state of thanksgiving.

Joy, prayer and gratitude are three attitudes that prepare us to live Christmas in an authentic way. In this last part of Advent, we entrust ourselves to the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary. She is "the cause of our joy," not only because she is the Mother of Jesus, but because she continually leads us to Him.

May God bless you always,
Fr. Hennes

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 14 ~ Saint John of the Cross

6:30 a.m. Mass at St. Stephen

Successful Surgery for Sophie Kubisiak

7:00-8:00 a.m. Holy Hour at St. Stephen

Tuesday, December 15

6:30 a.m. Mass at St. Stephen

†Members, Kowalski Family

7:00-8:00 a.m. Holy Hour at St. Stephen

Wednesday, December 16

7:00-8:00 a.m. Holy Hour at St. Joseph

8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph

Living & Deceased Members, Holy Name Society

Thursday, December 17

6:30 a.m. Mass at St. Stephen

†Omar Herrera

7:00-8:00 a.m. Holy Hour at St. Stephen

Friday, December 18

7:00-8:00 a.m. Holy Hour at St. Joseph

8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph

†Marion Pendergast

3-6:00 p.m. Confessions at St. Stephen

Saturday, December 19

4:00 p.m. at St. Joseph

†Joseph & Delphine Zakoski

6:00 p.m. at St. Stephen

Pro-Populo

- Confessions to follow

Sunday, December 20 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. at St. Stephen

†Members Kosobucki & Trzebiatowski Families

10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph

†George Lilyquist

- Confessions to follow

This Week's School Masses

†Ernest Zywicki

†Michael Slowinski

AREA NEWS

Pray for our seminarian of the week. May we be mindful that we are always connected to the universal Church. In a special way let us pray for our priests for tomorrow, our seminarians.



This week we pray for John Zweber who is studying Theology II at St. Francis de Sales Seminary.

Breviary Week 3

Readings for the week of December 13, 2020

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire You with all my heart.
Since I cannot now receive
You sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually
into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already
in my heart and unite myself to You completely.
Please do not let me ever be separated from You. Amen.



Live Stream Schedule at diolc.org/live
Sunday Mass with Bishop Callahan – 10:30 a.m.
Daily Mass (Monday-Saturday) from the Cathedral
Mass in English – 8:00 a.m.

Options for Mass on your Television include:

- Stevens Point (Public Access), Channel 984 at Noon and 5:30 p.m. Saturday.
- Wausau, (Cable and Satellite), Channel 12 at 6:30 a.m. Sunday.
- Heart of the Nation TV Mass, Channel 9.2 (antenna), channel 14 (cable) at 9 a.m. Sunday.

or watch Fr. Hennes each Sunday online at www.PointCatholicFaith.org/Mass.

Weekly Offertory:

We continue to count collections weekly. We thank you for your continued support during this trying time. Though you may not be attending Mass and we are separate physically, please be mindful that we are still united spiritually and the parish thanks you for your continued financial support.

How can I give my offering to the church?

- Bring to Mass
- Drop off in person at the office.
- Mail offertory envelope.
- Sign-up for automatic giving, form available at www.pointcatholicfaith.org
- Use my bank's online bill pay.

Online Giving:

Donate to the parish online through the Diocese:
<https://diolc.org/online-donation-for-parish-offertory/>

Search for the proper parish by designation:

Offertory 2020 (559) St. Joseph, Stevens Point
Offertory 2020 (563) St. Stephen, Stevens Point

Public Mass Attendance. Weekday and weekend Masses and Holy Hours are open to the public. We ask you to please be mindful of the following: please sit only in the marked area and please enter and exit only through marked doors.

Registration for weekend Masses is appreciated. Please sign-up online at www.PointCatholicFaith.org/Mass or by calling the parish office at 715-341-1617 ext. 101.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Mission Statement: *Together in Faith, we celebrate Christ through prayer and service.*

Finances:

November 2020 Giving: \$35,749
Budgeted Monthly: \$30,083

Weekly Giving to Date: \$146,946
Budgeted to Date: \$150,415

Thank you for your generosity!



Advent Tree & Wreath Project.. Christ came into the world to show us how to love one another, unconditionally, without passing judgement. Please take one or more ornaments from the Advent Tree or Wreath, or choose an item from the lists below. Bring your unwrapped donation and put in the appropriate box in the gathering space.

Suggested Items:

- Baby Supplies: wipes, onsies, blankets, toys, books, playmats, and children's mittens, socks & snow pants.
- Cleaning supplies and paper products.
- Gift Cards for gas, fast food, pharmacies, grocery stores, and department type stores.
- Fuel aid checks can be made payable to St. Joseph and dropped off at the office.

Deadline for donations is January 1. Details about each charity are listed on the bulletin board behind the Advent Tree.

Living Faith

Daily Catholic Devotions

The January through March 2021 Edition is now available for pickup.



Grades 9-10. Watch for your weekly Flocknote reminders. You should be completed with lesson 11. Reminder: If you did not attend the in-person class on Dec. 6, our Zoom class is December 13, watch your Flocknote for more information.

ST. STEPHEN PARISH

Mission Statement: *St. Stephen Parish, a faith-filled Catholic Community, is committed to sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure within our parish, community and the Kingdom of God.*

Finances:

November 2020 Giving: \$24,250
Budgeted Monthly: \$25,250

Weekly Giving to Date: \$103,220
Budgeted to Date: \$126,250

Thank you for your generosity!

Next Weekend's Liturgical Ministers:

Saturday:

Lector: Phil Di Salvo
Server: Ella Van Order

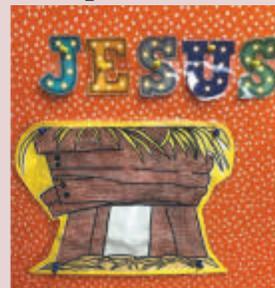
Sunday:

Lector: Maxine Hogan
Server: Mike Lila



Christmas Flowers. Please use the envelope provided in your packet or by simply placing a note with your gift.

St. Stephen School is preparing for Christmas...



Retirement Fund For Religious

Please consider how you can help, and mail your offering to the parish office no later than Sunday, December 27



Let Every Heart Prepare

This Advent Season we will have the following opportunities for all to receive the Sacrament of Penance.

St. Stephen

Saturday, following 6 p.m. Mass
Friday, 3-6:00 p.m.

St. Joseph

Sunday, following 10:30 a.m. Mass



For the health of Loretta Klesmit and Myron & Ernie Kurszewski.

To place your name or the name of a loved one on the weekly prayer list, please call 715-341-1617 x101 or email



Pope's Prayer Intention for December: For a Life of Prayer.

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



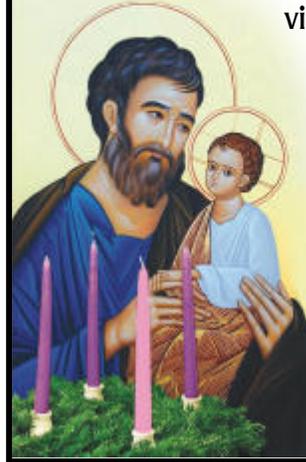
Scrip Gift Cards are available for purchase from the office, during regular office hours. Feel free to call ahead so that we can have your order ready for quick exchange.

ADVENT MISSION

Preparing for the Birth of the Christ Child through the Eyes of St. Joseph.

Four presentations, one for each week of Advent.
A time to prepare for Christmas.

Join Each Sunday at 7 p.m. or
view anytime at diolc.org/advent



Week 3: Dec. 13
That Holy Night,
Through Joseph's Eyes
~ Fr. Woodrow Pace

Week 4: Dec. 20
"Joseph, Son of David...
You are to Give Him
the Name Jesus"
~ Bishop William P. Callahan

Christmas Masses

December 24

4 p.m. at St. Joseph

6 p.m. at St. Stephen

(Centennial Celebration of Church Building)

December 25

8:30 a.m. at St. Stephen

10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph

Due to Covid-19 concerns you must have a ticket to attend Christmas Mass this year.

How to register for your free tickets:

- Online at www.pointcatholicfaith.org/mass
- Call the office at 715-341-1617 ext. 101. If you get voicemail, let us know your name, Mass you wish to attend, number of tickets, and mailing address.

If you register before December 14 your tickets will be mailed to you. Any registrations received after that date, will need to be picked up at the office in-person.

Due to social distancing guidelines our capacity is limited. Please register early to ensure you get a ticket.



RESTORING OUR MOTHER CHURCH ST. JOSEPH THE WORKMAN CATHEDRAL LA CROSSE

History

Since its dedication in 1962, Saint Joseph the Workman Cathedral has been an icon of faith and a magnificent place of worship. As the Mother Church of the Diocese, she has welcomed all within her walls, whether it be generations of faithful parish families or visitors from near and far. As Christ is the cornerstone of our Faith, our Cathedral is the cornerstone of our Diocese. It has been nearly 60 years since the dedication and time has taken its toll.

Case Statement

Recently, it has become very clear that moving forward with the restoration of St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral is both critical and urgent. Several heavy stone pieces from the steeple have already fallen, posing the risk of further structural damage and creating hazards. These fractures, left unattended, will only increase in size as will the cost of repair.

Measures have been taken to secure the area and restoration will begin shortly. We are now setting out prudently and swiftly to fund the costs of restoring our beloved Mother Church.



The total estimated cost of restoring the steeple and other needs of the Cathedral is \$6.1 million.

Answering the Call

In order to help fund this necessary and urgent restoration, St. Ambrose Financial Services, Inc. (the diocesan bank to which all parishes belong) has agreed to match **\$2 for every \$1 generously pledged** to this campaign up to \$3 million. This is an exceptional opportunity for the Catholic community of the Diocese of La Crosse to unite and answer the call to restore our Cathedral.

The **CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE** campaign will repair the structure of our Cathedral and renew its impact diocesan-wide for generations to come.

How You May Participate

We are inviting every family within the Diocese of La Crosse to make a difference in the life of our Cathedral Church.

While one-time donations are appreciated, we encourage you to consider one of the three-year pledge plans suggested on the attached card. This allows your intention to flourish and take full advantage of the \$2 for \$1 matching opportunity.

Your gift may be tax deductible/exempt. Please consider:

- For those who itemize, all annual contributions to our campaign are tax-deductible.
- An IRA charitable gift up to \$100,000, if you are aged 70½ or older, may qualify as part of your required minimum distribution (RMD). Only distributions payable directly to the Campaign are not taxed as income.
- Gifts directly to the campaign of appreciated stock, held for more than one year, qualify for a tax deduction and avoid capital-gains tax.

**We thank you for your
consideration and generosity!**

OUR CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of faith which is anchored in Christ, our cornerstone.

We praise and thank you for the countless gifts you have bestowed on us.

We are blessed to be stewards of Your gifts, recognizing that all we have is Yours.

We pray for the grace to be generous as we sacrificially return a portion of these gifts for the restoration of the Cathedral dedicated to St. Joseph the Workman.

Through his intercession, we ask Your blessing upon our Cathedral family and this campaign.

May all the faithful be inspired to respond to You with great trust, confident that

You will always provide for us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen

Prayerfully consider how you can assist and complete the pledge card below.

Please mail the pledge card to: Christ Our Cornerstone
PO Box 4004
La Crosse, WI 54602-4004

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone(s): _____
Email(s): _____



In thanksgiving to God for our many blessings, and in order to strengthen our parish faith community, I/we intend to share

Total Pledge: _____ **Down Payment** (if applicable, please attach check or complete the back): _____ **Balance Remaining:** _____

Payable: Monthly (36 months) Quarterly (12 quarters) Annually (3 years) One-Time Gift (paid in full)

Method of Payment: Cash/Check (payable to Christ Our Cornerstone Campaign) Auto Withdrawal/Credit Card - Please see opposite side for instructions
 IRA Charitable Rollover* Stock* *Please call Lisa at Baird Private Wealth Management at (608) 779-7342 for more details and questions

St. Joseph St. Stephen _____
(other) **Additional instructions:** _____ **Company Match?** Yes No
My/our intent is that this gift will be used solely for the Christ Our Cornerstone campaign.
Signature: _____ **Date:** _____
Pledges are not legally binding. Pledges payable over three years unless otherwise noted. Check here if you wish to remain anonymous.

Giving Plans to Consider		
Total Pledge	10% Down Payment	(36) Monthly
\$15,000	\$1,500	\$375
\$10,000	\$1,000	\$250
\$7,500	\$750	\$187.50
\$5,000	\$500	\$125
\$3,000	\$300	\$75
\$2,000	\$200	\$50
\$1,000	\$100	\$25
\$800	\$80	\$20

Please send me information about Planned Giving

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, CONTACT SARAH AT 608-791-2653 OR SKOMPERUD@DIOLC.ORG

For Electronic Funds Transfer from a checking account, please enclose a voided check.

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Card Number: _____

3-digit Security Code: _____ **Expiration Date:** _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Thank you for your support

By signing, I authorize the Diocese of La Crosse on behalf of the Christ Our Cornerstone - St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral campaign to debit/charge my account as listed above.

GIVE ONLINE

<https://cathedralsjworkman.org/cornerstone>

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